

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06487 081711Z
ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3588
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 6487

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING SENT FM USIS/PANAMA REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

UNCLAS PANAMA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

USIA FOR IOP/M. ILA, IBS/PL, IPS/PL

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.-- CANAL TREATY: TREATY SIGNING CEREMONY FOCUS OF
ALL TV-RADIO NEWS PROGRAMS SEPT. 7 AND 8, AND FRONT PAGES
OF ALL MORNINGS AND AFTERNOONS PRO-GOP LA REPUBLICA.
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PANAMANIAN TV STATIONS 2 AND 4 AND AFRTS STATION IN ZONE
CARRIED SATELLITE TRANSMISSION OF CEREMONY LIVE, AND REPEATED
CARTER-TORRIJOS SPEECHES AND SIGNING LATER IN EVENING.
APPROXIMATELY 40 RADIO STATIONS ACROSS PANAMA CARRIED BROADCAST,
30 VIA VOA, THE OTHERS VIA RADIO LIBERTAD NETWORK. SEPT, 7 NEWS-
PAPERS HAD LARGEST PRESS RUN IN HISTORY.

2. MORNINGS SEPT 8 CARRY TEXTS OF CARTER, TORRIJOS AND ORFILA REMARKS AND WIRE PHOTOS OF CEREMONY. PRO-GOP MATUTINO HEADS FRONT PAGE, IN RED INK, "END OF INJUSTICES WHICH IMPEDE EQUALITY; TORRIJOS PRESENTS LOGICAL TRUTH OF PANAMA UPON SIGNING TREATY WITH PRES. CARTER." MATUTINO ALSO RUNS PAGE ONE REPORT FROM OWN CORRESPONDENT, HEADED, "PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION EN ROUTE."

3. SEMI-INDEPENDEN LA ESTRELLA HEADS PAGE ONE, "TORRIJOS AFFIRMS, PANAMA PEPECTS INDEPENDENCE," OVER SEVEN-COLUMN PHOTO OF SIGNING. ESTRELLA ALSO RUNS AP WIRE PHOTO OF CARTER-TORRIJOS EMBRACE AFTER SIGNING. EIGHT-COLUMN HEAD LOWER FRONT PAGE, "TREATY OPPOSITION IN US DECLINES," OVER STORY BY ESTRELLA CORRESPONDENT EMILIO SINCLAIR, CIING RECENT GALLUP OLLL AND CONVERSATIONS WITH REPS. WAXMAN, RUSSO, FLINT AND WOLF.

4. ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD ALSO HAS FRONT-PAGE PHOTO OF SIGNING, AND AP STORY HEADED, "NEW RP CANAL PACT SIGNED." STAR AND HERALD IS ONLY PAPER TO RUN AP ITEM ON STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN PANAMA SEPT. 7 AGAINST TREATY, ALONG WITH PHOTO OF NATIONAL GUARDSMEN PATROLLING STREETS AFTERWARDS. LA REPUBLICA CARRIES SMALL FRONT PAGE ITEM ON DEMONSTRATIONS, CLAIMING ONLY ABOUT 200 STUDENTS WERE INVOLVED, AND NOT MENTIONING ARRESTS.

5. LA REPULICA RUNS TEXT OF TREATY, PHOTO OF CARTER WITH TORRIJOS, AND REPORT FROM OWN CORRESPONDENT, " TORRIJOS AND CARTER PUT AN END TO COLONIAL STAGE." REPUBLICA ALSO HAS FRONT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE EDIT CARTOON SHOWING TORRIJOS AND CARTER SIGNING TREATY, WITH UNCLE SAM PEEKING OVER SHOULDER OF PRESIDENT, AND PANAMANIAN OVER TORRIJOS' SHOULDER, SAYING, "ROAD WAS LONG AND RUGGED, BUT WE MADE IT."

6. ONLY MATUTINO MENTIONS DEMONSTATRATION BY ZONE RESIDENTS EVENING OF SEPT. 7, LINKING IT WITH DEMONSTRATIONS IN US, HEADED, "REACTION OPPOSED TO TREATY, IN ZONE AND IN US; ZONIANS IN THE STREET." UPI STORY IS HEADED, "PROTEST IN WASHINGTON." SAME PAGE ALSO INCLUDES PHOTOS OF PANAMANIAN WATCHING SIGNING CEREMONY ON TV AND CONGREGATING IN STREETS OF CITY AFTERWARDS. HEAD READS, "PEOPLE OF PANAMA RESPOND WITH JUBILATION TO TREATY SIGNING."

7. MATUTINO EDIT TAKES AY THEME, "WE HAVE AT LAST ACHIEVED THE VICTORY," A LINE FROM PANAMANIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM. EDIT SAYS MOST IMPORTANT PART OF TREATY, MORE SO THAN ECONOMIC COMPENSATION AND EVEN RETURN OF SUCH SENTIMENTAL PLACES AS ANCON HILL, IS FACT THAT PANAMA WILL BE FULLY SOVEREIGN IN ZONE. EDI POINTS OUT SUPPORT FROM LATAM FOR TREATY, AND SAYS THAT "IT IS OUR NATION, SMALL IN SIZE AND ENOURMOUS INDETERMINATION, WHICH HAS SHAKEN... IMPASSIVITY OF ALL THESE NATIONS... NOW INFUSED WITH

CONTINENTAL ACTIVITY AND SOLIDARITY."

8. OTHER COMMENTARISTS LOOK FORWARD TO RATIFICATION STRUGGLE. ESTRELLA FRONT PAGE EDIT SAYS APPROVAL BY PANAMANIAN PLEBISCITE IS CERTAINTY, BUT SENATE RATIFICATION WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT. SENATORS, SAYS ESTRELLA, MUST BE AWARE OF SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR VOTE: "TREATY RATIFICATION WOULD SIGNIFY... FORTIFYING OF ECUMENICAL PRESTIGE OF US AS GREAT NATION AND DEFENDER OF LIBERTY, JUSTICE AND RIGHTS OF MAN... AND VIGOROUS REBIRTH OF FAITH AND CONFIDENCE WHICH US SHOULD INSPIRE IN REST OF CONTINENT... ADVERSE RESULT IN SENATE... WOULD SIGNIFY OPPOSITE... PROVOKING IN LATAM CONSCIENCE, AND IN THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO US, SENSATION OF MISTRUST, DISMAY, SUSPICION, FRUSTRATION AND UNCERTAINTY AS TO CURRENT DIRECTION OF US

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FOREIGN POLICY..."

9. MATUTINO COLUMNIST LOUIS RESTREPO CALLS FOR CALM REFLECTION AND STUDY OF TREATY PROVISIONS IN PREPARATION FOR PLEBISCITE: "IN THIS CASE PANAMAINAS CANNOT ACT PASSIONATELY. STUDY OF NEW TREATY ON CANAL SHOULD LIBERATE PANAMANIAN FROM ALL MENTAL RESERVATIONS, FROM ALL POLITICAL PASSIONS, RANCOR OR PERSONAL AND POLITICAL ATTITUDES... POSITION OF AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT SHOULD BE PRODUCT OF INTELLIGENCE APPLIED IN OBJECTIVE AND DISPASSIONATE ANALYSIS."

10. MATUTINO COLUMNIST RICARDO LINCE IS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF DISTURBANCES DURING SEPT. 9 MASS RALLY, WHICH OVER 100,000 EXPECTED TO ATTEND. ACCORDING TO LINCE, "IF... HIGH SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVE, TOGETHER WITH TACT, PATIENCE, BALANCE, EXPERIENCE, COMMON SENSE AND BOLD DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY... HAS BROUGHT US EACH DAY CLOSER TO CONQUEST OF OUR TOTAL SOVEREIGNTY, A DISORDELY AND IRRESPONSABLE ATTITUDE ON PART OF PANAMANIAN PEOPLE, IN THESE CRITICAL MOMENTS, LOOSED BY PRETEXT OF NATIONAL JUBILATION FOR DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY ACHIEVED, COULD BE FATAL. IT IS EXACTLY WHAT ENEMIES OF TREATY ARE HOPING FOR."

11. LINCE CONCLUDES, "PEACE IN PANAMA IS INDISPENSABLE FOR WHAT WE WANT: EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF PANAMA CANAL... PEACE IN PANAMA IS BEST SECURITY FOR GOVERNMENT, PEOPLE AND CANAL ITSELF. IF IT IS DISTRUBED, INTERRUPTED BY VIOLENCE.. IT WILL BE GIVING COLONIALISTS BEST... ARMS... TO CUT OFF... OUR RIGHTS AND TO JUSTIFY OPPOSITION TO TREATY."

12. FYI, PRO-GOP CRITICA COMING OFF PRESSES VERY LATE SEPT. 8. WILL SEND CRITICA REACTION WHEN AVAILABLE. ITEM GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY SIGNATURE, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: PANAMA
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770986/aaaacuol.tel
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TAGS: SOPN, EWWT, PDIP, PN, US
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vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2668aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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